

NGOUN Keo



With the 11MSP, the Convention is returning to a place where the mine ban movement started two decades ago. It is an opportunity for the international community to recall how far this movement has come and how much work still remains to be done. It is also an opportunity to remember that there are many faces of the landmine movement in Cambodia. NGOUN Keo is one of these faces.



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NGOUN Keo is one of more than 50 women who work as deminers in HALO Trust demining sites in western Cambodia. Keo grew up in a refugee camp on the Cambodia-Thai border. She spent three of her teenage years working as a maid in Malaysia before returning to Cambodia to help her ailing mother. In March 2010 Keo was hired through HALO's Village Demining Project in Cambodia, which recruits and trains deminers directly from mine-affected communities. HALO's project allows mothers with children the opportunity to work without travelling far from home.

Founded in 1988, the UK-based HALO Trust has been carrying out humanitarian mine clearance and mine risk education in Cambodia for the past twenty years. A total of 55 minefields are currently being cleared by HALO in Cambodia. To date, HALO's demining teams have cleared over 71 million square metres of land and destroyed 250,000 landmines.

AP Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit